

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-25. (Canceled)

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) A method for the identification of a candidate modulatory compound that is capable of increasing the expression or activity of a mammalian *akt* nucleic acid sequence, involving:

(a) providing a *C. elegans* nematode or isolated *C. elegans* cell expressing said mammalian *akt* nucleic acid sequence, wherein said mammalian *akt* nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising a sequence having at least 95% identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, or 97, and that functions in insulin signaling and

(b) contacting said cell or said nematode with a candidate compound, an increase in *akt* expression or activity following contact with said candidate compound identifying a modulatory compound.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein step (a) comprises providing a *C. elegans* cell.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein step (a) comprises providing a *C. elegans* nematode.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said *akt* nucleic acid sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising a sequence identical to the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, or 97, and that functions in insulin signaling.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said *akt* nucleic acid sequence is a human *akt* nucleic acid sequence.

Claims 31-38. (Canceled)